

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 04750 250617Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 SAA-01 SSM-03 ACDA-12 /105 W
-----044431 251624Z /50

R 241600Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6889
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, DA, IS, SY, OVIP (KHADDAM, ABDUL)
SUBJ: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO DENMARK

REF : COPENHAGEN 4502

1. ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM'S VISIT TO COPENHAGEN JULY 21 TO JULY 24 INCLUDED A WEEKEND AND THE OFFICIAL ASPECTS WERE CARRIED OUT ON FRIDAY, JULY 21. THE OTHER DAYS WERE DEVOTED TO TOURISM AND RESTING PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE JULY 24 FOR THE MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MINISTERS IN BELGRADE. ALTHOUGH SOME PRESS REPORTS SAID DANES WERE REPELLED BY KHADDAM'S BLOODY ACCOUNTS OF ISRAELI VIOLENCE, OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE SAID THE VISIT WENT "QUOTE WELL" AND THAT THE PRESS REPORTS ON DANISH REACTIONS WERE EXAGGERATIONS.

2. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO EGYPTIAN
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PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE WAS ADAMANT AND KHADDAM CONDEMNED ISRAEL STRONGLY. PRIME MINISTER/FOREIGN MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, HOST AT AN OFFICIAL DINNER JULY 21, EXPRESSED DANISH HOPE FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

3. THE DANES WERE AWARE OF KHADDAM'S POSITION AND NO CHANGE

HAD BEEN EXPECTED. THERE WAS TACIT AGREEMENT NOT TO DIFFER OPENLY, REMARKS ON BOTH SIDES BEING CONFINED TO A STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN WARNED BY THE MFA THAT KHADDAM COULD BE DIFFICULT. HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE THEREFORE PLEASED TO FIND KHADDAM AN ATTRACTIVE, AGREEABLE VISITOR WHO MADE AN EFFORT TO AVOID UNPLEASANTNESS. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE EXTENSIVE.

4. OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD US HE HAD JUST COMPLETED A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE DANISH AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA, THORNING-PETERSEN. THE LATTER SAID THAT A SHIFT IN THE SYRIAN POSITION ON THE SADAT INITIATIVE AND ISRAEL OUGHT NOT TO BE EXPECTED.

WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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